



GUIDE TO TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

Could violence be a part of your teen's social life or dating relationships? The answer may surprise you. While we might think that relationship violence is something that could never effect the lives of our children, the truth is that nearly a third of girls surveyed said they know of at least one student at school who has been physically abused by a person that were dating.

What are the warning signs that your daughter is in an abusive relationship?

She apologizes for his behavior and makes excuses for him.

She loses interest in activities that she used to enjoy.

She stops seeing friends and family members and becomes more and more isolated.

When your daughter and boyfriend are together; he calls her names and puts her down in front of other people.

He acts extremely jealous of others who pay attention to her, especially other guys.

He thinks or tells your daughter that you (her parents) don't like him.

He controls her behavior, checking up on her constantly, calling and texting her, demanding to know who she has been with.

She casually mentions his violent behavior, but laughs it off as a joke.

You see him violently lose his temper, striking or breaking objects.

She often has unexplained injuries, or the explanations she offers don't make sense.

You can download a helpful Parent's Guide and learn more about teen dating violence at www.loveisnotabuse.com/

Other helpful websites include:

www.breakthecycle.org



Break the Cycle is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to engage, educate and empower youth to build lives and communities free from dating and domestic violence. They provide preventive education, free legal services, advocacy and support for young people between the ages of 12 to 22.

www.childhelpusa.com

The ChildHelpUSA Web site outlines the group's programs and services, supplies hotline numbers and local contacts, and provides information for kids and teens about abuse.

www.childrennow.org

The Children Now Web site provides access to Children Now publications, poll results, policy papers, press materials, action updates on federal and state legislation, and links to other Web sites devoted to children's issues.

www.girlsinc.org

The Girls Incorporated Web site provides research, advocacy information and tips on issues surrounding girls and young women.

www.dvalianza.org

The National Latino Alliance for the Elimination of Domestic Violence (Alianza) is a group of nationally recognized Latina and Latino advocates, community activists, practitioners, researchers and survivors of domestic violence working together to promote understanding, sustain dialogue, and generate solutions to move toward the elimination of domestic violence affecting Latino communities.